

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1431

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, UK

SUBJECT: DEFENSE UNDER- SECRETARY OF STATE FOR RAF
RESIGNS IN BROTHEL SCANDAL

1. FOR SEVERAL DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS IN THE LONDON PRESS OF A SITUATION WHICH MIGHT ERUPT INTO A SCANDAL INVOLVING HIGH GOVERNMENT PERSONALITIES. THE SUBSTANCE BEHIND THE RUMORS WAS REVEALED ON MAY 22, WHEN THE UNDER- SECRETARY OF STATE FOR RAF, LORD LAMBTON, TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER " FOR PERSONAL AND HEALTH REASONS". PRIME MINISTER HEATH CURTLY ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION. ON MAY 23 LAMBTON ISSUED A STATEMENT CONFESSING THAT HE HAD QUIT HIS POST BECAUSE OF AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH SEVERAL CALL GIRLS. THE HUSBAND OF ONE OF THEM HAD TAKEN COMPROMISING PICTURES AND SOLD THEM TO THE PRESS. LAMBTON HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE POLICE ABOUT THE MATTER. HE SAID HE HAD NO EXCUSES TO OFFER, DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AS A " SORDID STORY" AND ACKNOWLEDGED HIS OWN " CREDULOUS STUPIDITY". HE SAID " NO SECURITY LEAK, NO BLACKMAIL, AND AS FAR AS I KNOW NO POLITICIAN OF ANY PARTY IS REMOTELY CONNECTED WITH THESE EVENTS".

2. LAMBTON' S RESIGNATION AND DISCLOSURES COME AT A TIME
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WHEN TWO OTHER RELATED DEVELOPMENTS ARE BEING REPORTED IN THE PRESS. IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF THE GERMAN MAGAZINE " STERN" IT IS ALLEGED THAT A TOP BRITISH DIPLOMAT HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A BROTHEL SCANDAL. THE DIPLOMAT IS SAID TO COME FROM A WELL- KNOWN ARISTOCRAT FAMILY, TO HAVE HAD ACCESS TO MANY MILITARY SECRETS AND TO HAVE BEEN AN HABITU OF A STRING OF LUXURY BROTHELS WHICH WERE ALSO OPERATING IN NEW YORK, WEST GERMANY AND PARIS. IT IS SAID THAT THE WAVES OF INVESTIGATIONS BY VARIOUS NATO SECURITY SERVICES HAD BEEN DETECTED BY THE STAFF OF " STERN" IN HAMBURG AND BONN. (ON MAY 23 " STERN" CONFIRMED THAT LAMBTON WAS THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED.)

3. OTHER BRITISH PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PM, SCOTLAND YARD HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AN INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS ABOUT VICE RING IMPROPRIETIES BY GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND OTHER PUBLIC FIGURES.

4. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NATURALLY RAISED QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE TRUE FACTS AND WHETHER THE " STERN" STORY AND OTHER REPORTS ARE RELATED. MEMORIES OF THE PROFUMO SCANDAL OF 10 YEARS AGO ARE BEING EVOKED. IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE PM WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE MATTER IN COMMONS ON MAY 24.

ANNENBERG

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